

BRIAN HIGGINS
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

ASSISTANT WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3226

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3306
(202) 226-0347 (FAX)

726 EXCHANGE STREET
SUITE 601
BUFFALO, NY 14210
(716) 852-3501
(716) 852-3929 (FAX)

800 MAIN STREET
SUITE 3C
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14301
(716) 282-1274
(716) 282-2479 (FAX)
higgins.house.gov

April 15, 2021

Hon. Peter A. DeFazio,
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown's ROLL anti-lead program as a model for the American Jobs Plan

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

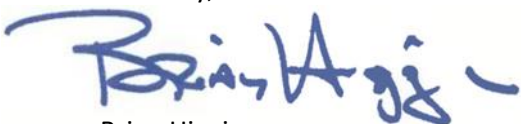
I support the goal advanced by President Biden to completely eliminate lead in U.S. drinking water by 2025 through a significant, generational investment in water infrastructure in the American Jobs Plan. As the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure works to develop and advance this component of this landmark legislation, I write today to make you aware of a significant initiative which should be a national model in the nation's lead-elimination strategy.

Begun in 2019, Buffalo, NY, Mayor Byron Brown's "Replace Our Lead Lines" (ROLL) program is distinguished from traditional governmental water infrastructure programs in that it allows governmental resources to be used to replace privately-owned lead service lines which run laterally from municipally-owned main lines to individual residences. It is of course important that we address lead and lead solder in municipally-owned transmission and distribution systems, but if we fail to address the significant health threat posed by lead in service lines owned by individual homeowners and other property owners, we will fail to meet President Biden's ambitious and necessary goal of lead elimination.

To date, Mayor Brown's ROLL initiative has replaced 400 lead service lines in the City of Buffalo. With federal support through the American Jobs Plan, Buffalo and similarly-situated communities could take the steps necessary fully address this aspect of the lead crisis.

As the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure advances this legislation, I ask that the funding provided to states and localities be specifically tailored to support efforts like Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown's ROLL initiative, by supporting the elimination of lead in the privately-owned service lines at individual homes. Thank you very much for your leadership and your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress